

Amended Claims

1. (Amended) A computer-implemented system for issuing identification documents to one of a plurality of individuals, comprising:

a workstation, the workstation having a processor, a memory, an input device and a display;

a first database, the first database operatively connected to the workstation and storing a plurality of digitized images, each digitized image comprising a biometric image of an individual seeking an identification document

a first server in operable communication with the workstation and with the first database, the first server programmed to:

send, at a predetermined time, one or more digitized images of the individual from the first database to a biometric recognition system, the biometric recognition system in operable communication with a second database, the second database including biometric templates associated with a plurality of individuals whose images have been previously captured;

the biometric recognition system comparing, the digitized image of the individual to the plurality of individuals whose images have been previously captured;

the server being further programmed to:

(a) receive from the biometric recognition system, for each digitized image of the individual sent, an indicator, based on the biometric searching of the second database, as to whether the second database contains any images of individuals who may at least partially match the digitized image of the individual that was sent; and

(b) receive from the biometric recognition system a list of images of the individuals who may at least partially match the digitized image of the individual that was sent together with a score of each individual, the score indicating a score above a predetermined threshold relating to the degree of matching to the individual searching an identification document;

the workstation being configured to permit a user to review the indicator and the scores of individuals from the biometric recognition system and to make a determination as to whether the individual is authorized to be issued an identification document or to keep an identification document already in the individual's possession.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the digitized image is at least one of a facial, fingerprint, thumbprint, and iris image.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the identification document is a driver's license.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the biometric recognition system is programmed to create a biometric template based on the digitized image received from the first server and to use that biometric template to search the second database.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the server is programmed to create a biometric template and provide that template to the biometric recognition system.
6. (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the indicator comprises a list of further data associated with the individuals whose images at least partially resemble matches the digitized image that was sent.
7. (Original) The system of claim 6 further comprising a third database in operable communication with the workstation, the third database storing at least one of images and non-image data associated with each biometric template in the second database, wherein the workstation is configured to be able to retrieve information from the third database upon request and display it to a user.
8. (Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the indicator comprises is displayed on a user interface of the display, the user interface retrieving from the third database the images of at least a portion of the images of individuals that the biometric recognition system has determined may at least partially resemble the digitized image that was sent.
9. (Amended) The system of claim 8, wherein each image accessible to the workstation system is associated with at least one of additional biometric data and demographic information and wherein the user interface is operable to permit a user to do at least one of the following functions:

visually compare the digitized image that was sent directly to an image of an individual whose data was returned in the indicator by the facial biometric recognition search system;

visually compare demographic information associated with the individual whose digitized image was sent directly to demographic information of an individual whose data was returned in the indicator by the facial biometric recognition search system;

visually compare the other biometric information associated with the digitized image that was sent to other biometric information associated with an individual whose data was returned in the indicator by the facial biometric recognition search system;

create a new biometric template of the digitized image that was sent and conduct a new search of the biometric recognition search system using the new biometric template;

perform a re-alignment of the digitized image and use the re-alignment data to conduct a new search of the biometric recognition search system;

capture a new image of the individual whose digitized image was sent;

adding a notification to a record associated with at least one of the digitized image that was sent and the data that was returned in the indicator by the biometric recognition search system, the notification providing an alert that there may be a problem with the record; and

selecting at least one of the images of an individual whose data was returned in the indicator by the facial biometric recognition search system and sending that image to the biometric recognition search system to run a search on that image.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a capture station configured to acquire at least one digitized image of an individual seeking an identification document and to provide the digitized image to the first server.

11-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Withdrawn) A computer implemented method of creating a biometric template of an individual for

facial recognition processing, comprising:

sending an image of the individual to a plurality of eye finding modules, each eye finding module configured to find the location of at least one eye of the individual in the image;

receiving locations of the at least one eye from each respective eye finding module in the plurality of eye finding modules; and

applying at least one rule to the received locations to determine the eye location to be used for creation of the biometric template.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the predetermined rule comprises at least one or more of the following rules;

selecting as an eye location the average of the received eye locations;

selecting as an eye location a weighted average of the received eye locations;

selecting as an eye location the location that is closest to the eye location determined by a majority of the plurality of eye finding modules;

removing from the received eye locations any eye locations that are outside of a predetermined boundary;

selecting as an eye location an eye location that is the center of gravity of the received eye locations;

removing from the received eye locations any eye locations that do not fit known eye characteristics, and

removing from the received eye locations any eye locations that are not within a predetermined distance or slope from the eye locations of the other eye of the individual.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

determining whether the eye location to be used for creation of the biometric template is acceptable.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of searching a database of biometric templates, each biometric template associated with a corresponding facial image of an individual, for an image of an individual who substantially resembles an individual in a probe image, comprising:

receiving a probe image of an individual at a client;

determining the eye locations of the individual;

applying a predetermined rule to determine if the eye locations are acceptable;

if the eye locations are acceptable, creating a probe biometric template using the eye locations; and

searching a database of biometric templates using the probe biometric template.

19-20 (Cancelled)